| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1554Responded to: 09 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **The amount of money Police Scotland spent on policing pro-Palestine protests in the last financial year (6 April 2024 to 5 April 2025).**
2. **The amount of money Police Scotland spent on policing pro-Palestine protests in the financial year before last (6 April 2023 to 5 April 2024).**

Police Scotland does not routinely record the resources or costs associated with any specific investigation or police response.

The exception to this would be large scale events, such as football matches or music festivals, or long running, complex investigations such as murder or missing person cases.

In those examples, specific cost codes can be created, against which staff costs as well as any other costs can be attributed.

Additionally, Operational Order documents will set out the planned resource deployment.

Where cost codes and Operational Orders exist, it is relatively straightforward to provide associated resource and/ or financial information.

Even if that information is caveated, that a planned response can, of course, evolve over the course of an event.

Our Operational Support Division planning team confirm that they have had *no involvement* in the operational response to any such events for the time period covered by your request.

That means that any pre-planned and/ or spontaneous pro-Palestine protests will have been managed by local policing divisions as routine deployments, without the type of records referenced above.

In the absence of such records, we are reliant on what limited records, if any, have been maintained by each of the relevant local policing divisions.

The nature of policing means that officers are deployed to wherever their services are most required.

The number of officers deployed to an event such as a protest will fluctuate throughout, depending on the circumstances, and officers can be redeployed to other duties at any time.

It is wholly possible that an officer might, for example, be deployed to a pre-planned protest and then shortly into that deployment they are redirected to attend a spontaneous incident elsewhere.

The opposite is also true - reports of spontaneous protests can be received via calls to our contact centre and on officer on duty elsewhere can be deployed in real time to attend.

In the absence of any formal records, there are no means by which resource levels and/ or financial information could be created - and I would also argue that so doing would nonetheless be outwith the scope of the Act.

In terms of this request, I can confirm that, for most of the Divisions of Police Scotland, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

In relation to a few Divisions however, *some, limited* information is held but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

Section 35(1)(a) - prevention and detection of crime
Section 39(1) - health and safety

The effective policing of any future protests would be compromised were the public to be informed in advance as to what the likely police response to the event will be.

This would, in turn, put members of the public and police officers at increased risk of harm.

We accept that there is a public interest in better informing the public as to events of this nature and the associated police response but that must be balanced with the need to ensure that the integrity of the police response is not compromised, and that people are kept safe from harm.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.